



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

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TO: Alex Adams, Administrator, Division of Financial Management
FROM: Dave Jeppesen, Director, Department of Health and Welfare
DATE: November 23, 2020
SUBJECT: CFAC Funding Request for Contract Hospital Medical Staff

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare would like to utilize the State’s CARES Act funding to supplement the depleted and exhausted medical professional staff at hospitals through the end of the calendar year and requests an initial amount of \$5 million. This request is supported by the Idaho Office of Emergency Management.

Hospitals’ staff continue to be depleted by COVID-19 exposure or infection from the community. Many healthcare workers are fatigued or burned-out having worked nearly non-stop for the past eight months. This has resulted in Idaho hospitals that are short on staff to handle significant increases in hospitalization beyond current levels, such as the anticipated increase in COVID-19 cases following the Thanksgiving holiday.

Demand for agency contract nurses and respiratory therapists (RTs) is up nationally and the cost of contracting those workers has increased significantly during the pandemic. Contracts for ICU and Med.-Surg. Nurses are ranging between \$150 and \$200 an hour depending on the length of engagement and vocation.

For a four-week period ending in December 2020, \$5 million would provide Idaho hospitals with the opportunity to staff approximately 150 to 200 nurses and RTs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical staff contracts have ranged from four weeks to the otherwise typical 13-week engagements. Any portion of agency staffing contracts that extend beyond the end of the year would be the responsibility of the individual hospital(s).

Number of positions at various hourly rates:

Hourly Rate	Hours/week	Weeks	Contract Amount	Positions filled at \$5 million
\$150.00	40	4	\$24,000.00	208.33
\$175.00	40	4	\$28,000.00	178.57
\$200.00	40	4	\$32,000.00	156.25